

ABSTRACT:

A side rail; a patient support assembly, such a hospital bed, a stretcher and the like, provided with such a side rail; a method of operating associated thereto; and a kit for assembling the side rail. The side rail includes support bars and at least one cross bar being substantially positioned within a same vertical plane, substantially parallel to a corresponding side portion of the assembly. The support bars are rotatable with respect to the corresponding side portion about respective axes being parallel to a transverse axis of the assembly, and first and second ends of the at least one cross bar are rotatable with respect to the support bars about respective axes being parallel to the transverse axis, so that the side rail be operated between raised and lowered configurations along the same vertical plane and so that the side rail be collapsible in the lowered configuration, within the same vertical plane. The side rail is devised so as to be easily installed onto the assembly, and further devised so as to be easily, quickly and safely operated between the raised and lowered configurations.